SUBJECTS.

Dewan.—Is there any building ?

Member.—There is a site available.

Dewan.—You should apply to the Director.

63. Mahomedan Education in Travancore.

Mr. Shaik Mahomed Hamidani Thangal (Member, Nominated) represented that the Mahomedans of the State were very backward in education. A great obstacle was put in their way in this matter by the Mullahs, who unreasonably persuaded them not to study English. Unless the Government took up the responsibility of uplifting them, their condition would be simply deplorable. The Member suggested (1) that the Government should, as a tentative measure, enforce compulsory education among Mahomedans by opening Elementary Schools in all Mahomedan centres, (2) that Arabic should also be taught in the schools to enable them to understand the Koran, (3) that Mahomedan Inspectors should be appointed over these schools and that they must be directed to deliver lectures during their tours of inspection, about the use of education, trade, agriculture and industry, with a view to create a desire among the Mahomedans for such things, and (4) that encouragement should be given to the poor Mahomedan students by exempting them from the payment of fees and rendering other assistance.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Mahomedan boys should be fully exempted from the payment of fees in schools till the Form VI; a few of them should be selected and sent to England or Bombay annually to prosecute their studies on Government scholarships.

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Nominated) said that, in spite of the Government fee concession to Mahomedans, the community did not seek education. This fact showed that the concession should be extended further, so as to encourage education among them. The Member suggested(1) that Mahomedan students should be exempted from the payment of any school fees up to Form VI, and (2) that one at least of the Mahomedan students, educated up to the Vth or the VIth Form, should be annually selected and sent to England or Bombay for training in Mechanical Engineering and other branches of study.

The Member also prayed for an increase of grant to the L. G. E. School at Quilon for Mahomedans and prayed that an additional class be also opened in that school for the teaching of Arabic.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The teaching of English up to the 1st Form in the Lower Grade Elementary Schools in places where Mahomedans are large in number.

Mr. Hussan Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that the general rule as applied to other communities in the matter of education should be relaxed in the case of Mahomedans and special concessions and facilities should be afforded to them with a view to encourage education among them. Mahomedan parents as a general rule took no interest whatever in

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SUBJECTS.

sending their children to English schools, and when the schools were far away, nothing could be expected of them. He urged the necessity for introducing compulsory education among them and he also pointed out that the introduction of English up to Form I in the Lower Grade Elementary Schools, in places where the number of Mahomedans was large, would prove to be of great help.

Dewan's reply.—The Government have been encouraging the education of the Mahomedans as far as they could.

64. Opening of Elementary Schools at all convenient centres for the free education of the children of the Roman Catholic Christians living along the sea-coast.

Mr. L. H. Netto (Member, Nominated) referred to the backward condition of the Roman Catholic Christians living on the sea-coast as regards their intellectual and moral advancements and said that, while most of the other classes of His Highness' subjects had been benefited by the Government's generosity in the matter of education, the coast Christians alone were not in a position to profit in this direction, owing to their inability to open and maintain schools. The Member therefore prayed that the Government might take upon itself the duty of opening the necessary Elementary Schools for the education of this poor and backward community.

Dewan:—I quite sympathise with you. You are indeed backward. I would advise you to see the Director later on with a memorial from your community and explain to him your difficulties and express your wants.

65. Educational needs of the Vaikom taluk.

Mr. G. Venkitarama Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Vaikom) represented that, before the advent of the Educational Code, there were 150 schools, both aided and unaided, in the taluk, but now there were only 15 schools in all. Out of 25,000 children, only less than 6,000 were now under instruction for want of a sufficient number of schools. The Member then described the unsatisfactory condition of the schools at Kallara and Perumpallam, opened by the Government, after the passing of the Code. The Kallara school intended for only 120 boys, practically accommodated more than double that number. The same was the case at Perumpallam. He also pointed out the deplorable state of the Higher Grade Elementary School, situated in the heart of the town at Vaikom, which accommodated 575 boys, while it could accommodate only 250 children at the most, according to the Code. As matters stood at present, the depressed classes at Vaikom were completely shut out from education, owing to the want of admission in the school, which was located near the temple. Want of accommodation caused a portion of the higher classes to remain without instruction. He suggested that the school might be removed from the present site and provided with sufficient accommodation.

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